

*This paper not listed
in Madras as of 2/28/8*

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A system for effecting procurement of desired items which include products or services or information content, the system comprising:

a portable, hand-held user tool, comprising a facility for reading, storing and forwarding identification indicia identifying the desired items;

a central agent facility configured to communicate with a plurality of the user tools and constructed to receive from the hand-held user tools the identification indicia;

a database associated with the central agent facility that correlates the desired item identification information received from the hand-held user tools with corresponding supply source information for the desired items available at or from a plurality of suppliers;

a data gathering facility associated with the central agent facility which communicates to the suppliers users requests for the desired items and receives information from the suppliers relevant thereto;

wherein the central agent facility communicates to the user tools selective information pertaining to the desired items; and

wherein said central agent facility includes a plurality of user-selectable electronic agent facilities which can be selected by a user with the user tool and which electronic agent facilities are operable independently of one another and capable of providing information that is at least partially not intertwined with information available from the other electronic agent facilities; and

further wherein the user tool is optionally and selectively operable in an on-line mode or in an off-line mode.

2. **(Original)** The system of claim 1, in which the user tool comprises having a sensor, whose mode of operation selected from the operation group including: optical, magnetic, infrared, sound and bio-sensor.